

promote positive relations between the United States and the Czech Republic.

RECOGNIZING THE CHEVRON CORPORATION AND THE YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK VOLUNTEER PROJECT

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the outstanding work of the Yosemite National Park Volunteer Project. The project is celebrating a decade of effort by the Yosemite Fund and volunteers from Chevron Corporation to restore and preserve one of the crown jewels of our National Park System. Yosemite's 4 million yearly visitors will bear witness to the fruits of this effort: More than 60 acres of meadows, lake area and woodlands have been restored. Nearly 3,000 volunteers donated 27,500 hours to collect and plant 10,000 oak seedlings, remove 1,000 feet of roadway, build 4,000 feet of split rail fence, install 1,500 feet of boardwalk, remove 600,000 pounds of asphalt, plant 100 black oak trees and improve one mile of trails.

Mr. Speaker, this is not glamorous work. To the contrary, splitting rails, digging up asphalt and laying boardwalk to protect meadows is hard, physical labor. The Chevron volunteers did it happily, putting to superb use the \$1.3 million in contributions provided by Chevron. The Yosemite Fund, the National Park Service and Chevron have created a partnership that invigorates natural conditions in Yosemite which still might be in danger of permanent degradation if it were not for this timely volunteer and financial assistance. This cooperative effort is a model public/private partnership that has made a lasting difference in one of this nation's most beautiful and most important natural settings.

NANCY BERRY INDUCTED INTO THE NATIONAL TEACHERS HALL OF FAME

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, on June 14, I had the great opportunity to speak before a very select group of individuals, the year 2000 inductees into the National Teachers Hall of Fame. These are individuals who have shown exceptional dedication and creativity in the teaching profession.

It was a great honor to have as one of the inductees Nancy Berry, the Principal of Columbia Elementary School in Logansport, Indiana. At Columbia Elementary School you would be welcomed to "Berryland," the creative classroom of Nancy Berry, where children acquire an appreciation to learn. Nancy has taught in the classroom for Logansport Community School Corporation for over 20 years. Although she has been principal for the

last three years, she still keeps active in the classroom.

Nancy, as well as the other inductees, has the gift to spark the imaginations of our children and the commitment to demand excellence and character, not only from students, but also in inspiring other teachers to strive for these goals. Nancy has created educational materials as well as a management program that promotes dignity, imagination, self-discipline, and responsibility. As Nancy puts it "behavior is like a shirt, it can be changed."

It was my privilege to welcome these outstanding teachers to the National Teachers Hall of Fame, and on behalf of grateful parents and a grateful nation, to express thankfulness for their hard work and dedication.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN WAR

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great appreciation today, on the fiftieth anniversary of the Korean War, to celebrate those who fought for this country and its ideals.

I respect those who served in the Korean War and for the more than 54,000 who didn't return. I commend the men and women who served valiantly and with little recognition. These brave veterans returned home and went back to work to make our country the greatest nation on Earth.

Because of this lack of attention, the Korean War has frequently been called "The Forgotten War." Today I say that we have not forgotten. To this day, American and South Korean troops stand watch on the Korean peninsula, living testaments to this critical episode in the annals of the Cold War. Millions of citizens in South Korea remember the sacrifices Americans made and cherish the freedom that we fought to preserve for them.

Let me also pay special tribute to those who have made it their mission to ensure we do not forget those who fought there and did not return. Bob Dumas, a constituent of mine, continues his untiring search for his brother, Roger, who remains MIA in North Korea. Remains of another twelve American servicemen were returned to the U.S. by North Korea on Saturday. I believe we must continue to press until we have accounted for all lost in the conflict.

Finally, let me challenge my colleagues to take this opportunity, while we are remembering this "Forgotten War," to renew our commitment to those who served with honor, those who fought bravely, and those who died with valor in the service of our country—our veterans. Whether they served at Chosin Reservoir, Bunker Hill, Bloody Ridge, or Heartbreak Ridge, let us respect their service and sacrifice through fully supporting those programs which they truly deserve: adequate funding of medical facilities including mental health programs; more Community Based Outreach Clinics to bring health care closer to our aging veterans; more coordination among federal agencies for our homeless veterans; and

continued support of education and rehabilitation. Given the sacrifices of our veterans, we owe them much more than just a debt of gratitude—we owe them the care that they earned.

ASSURING QUALITY OF ELDER CARE IN NURSING HOMES—THE INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4898 TO REQUIRE AIR CONDITIONING IN NURSING HOMES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on June 15th and 16th of this year, three elderly patients died at the SunBridge Care and Rehabilitation home in Burlingame, California, in my Congressional District and five others at the home were hospitalized during a heat wave when temperatures in the county soared to 108°. When county officials visited the nursing home in Burlingame during last month's heat wave, fans were pointed toward staff, while elderly people were dying. Those deaths are under investigation by state and local officials in California.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot have the federal government financially supporting nursing homes where conditions are life-threatening. That is why I have introduced H.R. 4898, legislation which will require air conditioning in nursing home facilities which receive Medicare or Medicaid funding. If the operators of these profit-making facilities are not willing to assure humane conditions for the elderly living there, they will not receive federal funds.

H.R. 4898 amends the Social Security Act to add the requirement for air conditioning to the specifications which nursing home facilities must meet in order to be eligible for federal funds. Because Medicare and Medicaid provide a major portion of the funding for many of the patients at most nursing homes in the country, this legislation will require virtually all such facilities to have air conditioning.

Mr. Speaker, these deaths in California occurred just a week after the release of a congressional study which was conducted at the request of the members of the Bay Area congressional delegation. This study revealed how substandard the conditions are in nursing homes in our area. The study found that only 6 percent of Bay Area nursing homes were in "substantial compliance" with federal standards, and 41 percent of homes were found to have violations of federal standards "that caused actual harm to residents or placed them at risk of death or serious injury." In short, this report says our nursing homes are in crisis, and corrective action is necessary. Just one week later we saw the consequences in the tragedy in Burlingame.

Mr. Speaker, this need for air conditioning is not just a California problem. The heat wave now affecting much of the Southern states over the past two weeks has been blamed for the deaths of at least 12 people in Texas and four in Louisiana. Heat kills. It is an absolute outrage that elderly people in nursing homes are dying because it's too hot. We need to take action to protect our elderly who are in